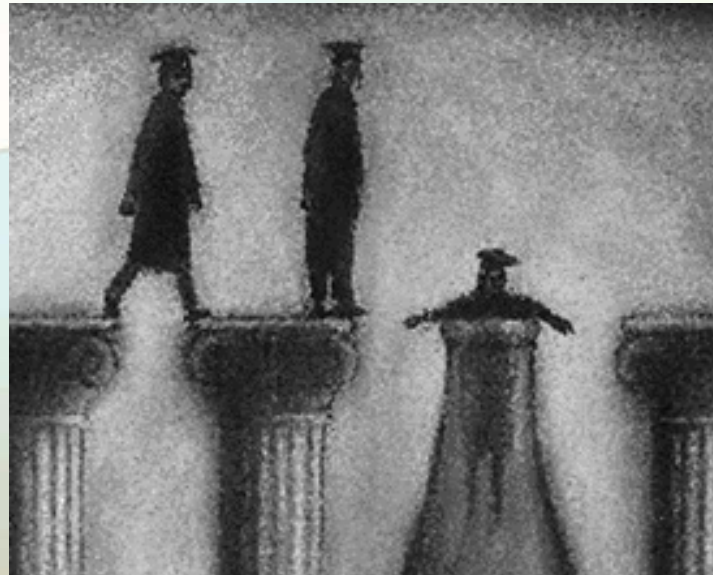


Underage Drinking in California

California Town Hall Meetings



Prepared by
Community Prevention Institute
An ADP TA Project Managed by the
Center for Applied Research Solutions

March, 2006

General Findings*

- **Lifetime (*Ever Use*)**

- 7th grade: 16.2% by age 12
- 9th grade: 43.2% by age 14
- 11th grade: 64.8% by age 16

- **Past Six Month (*Recent Use*)**

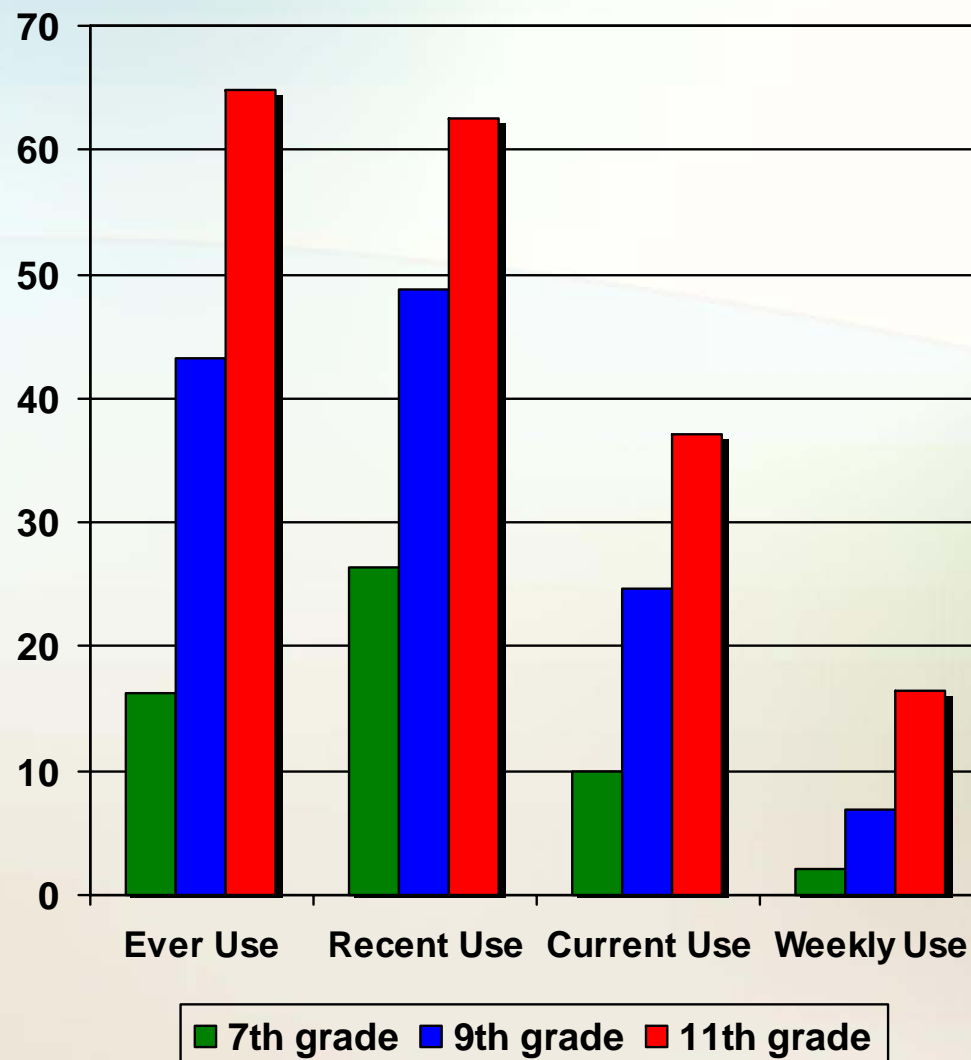
- 7th grade: 26.3%
- 9th grade: 48.7%
- 11th grade: 62.5%

- **Past Thirty Days (*Current Use*)**

- 7th grade: 10.0%
- 9th grade: 24.7%
- 11th grade: 37.1%

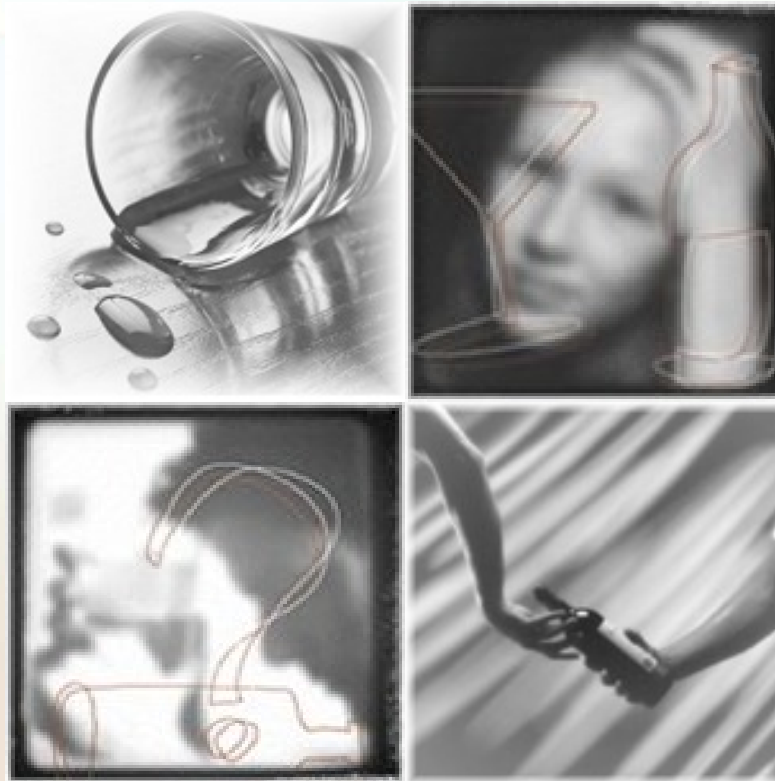
- **High Frequency (*Weekly Use*)**

- 7th grade: 2.1%
- 9th grade: 6.9%
- 11th grade: 16.4%



• All findings presented are based on WestEd's 10th Biennial California Student Survey Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use 2003 – 2004. Published by California's Attorney General's Office.

Level of Involvement





Level of Involvement: Binge (Heavy) Drinking (Past 30 days)

- Consuming five drinks in a row

- 7th grade: 3.7%

- 9th grade: 11.5%

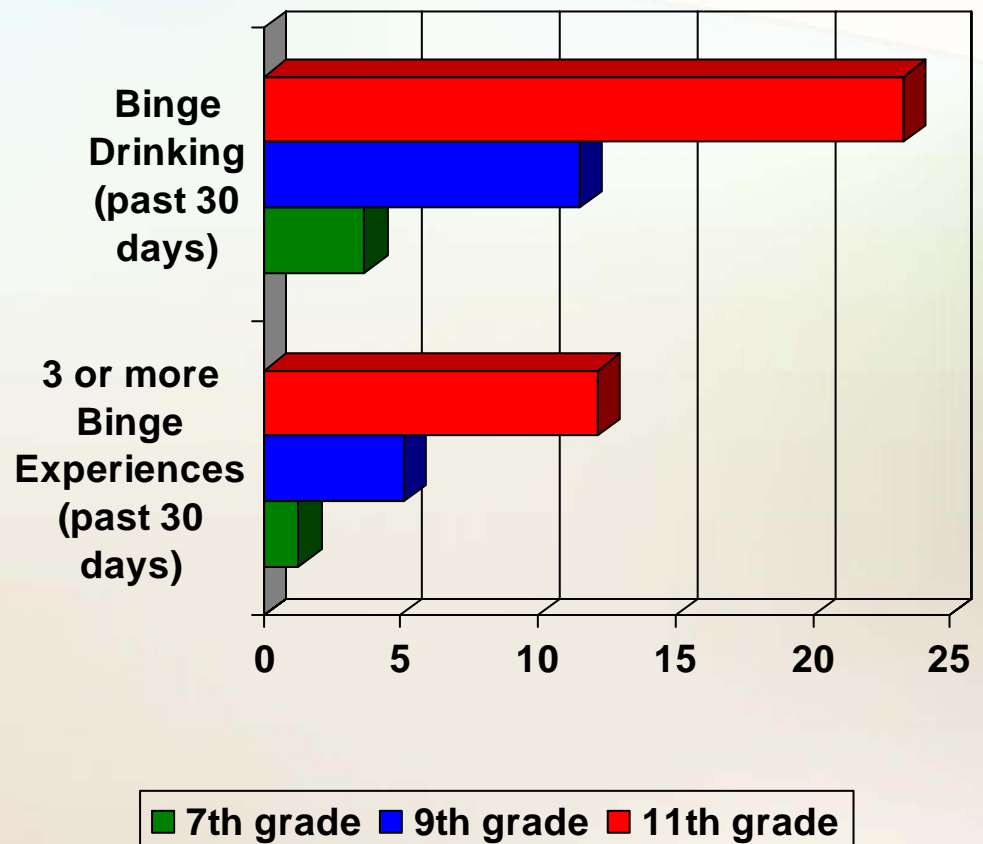
- 11th grade: 23.3%

- 3 or more days per month

- 7th grade: 1.3%

- 9th grade: 5.1%

- 11th grade: 12.2%



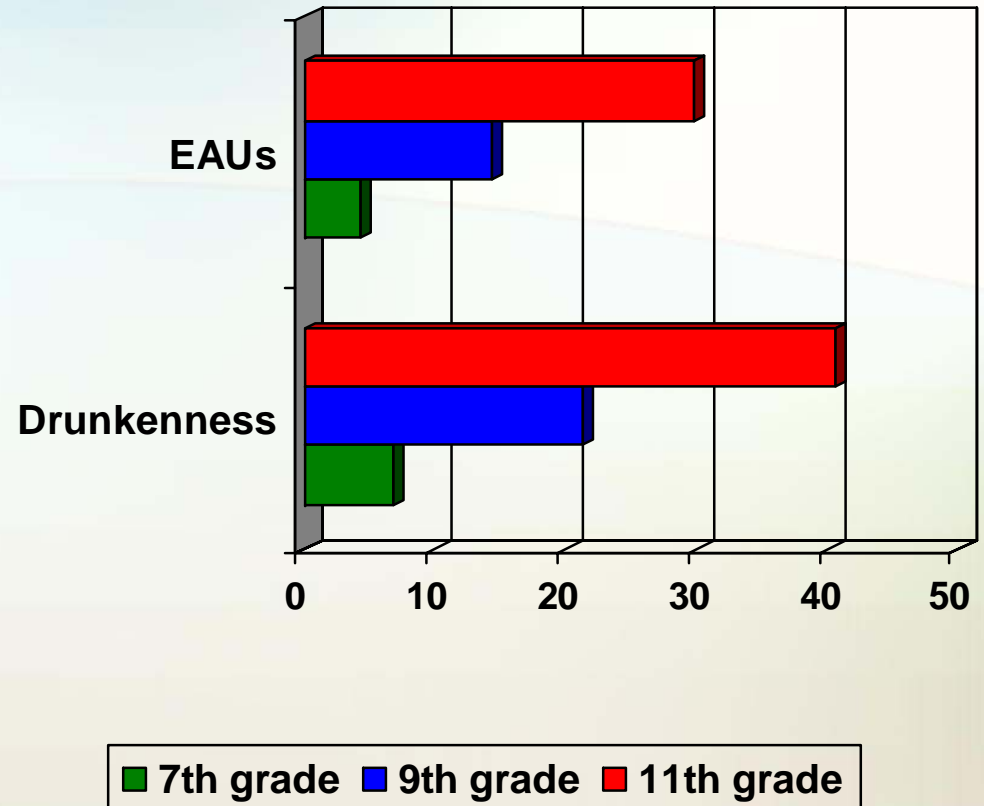
Level of Involvement

•Drunkenness - Very Drunk/Sick (Lifetime)

- 7th grade: 6.8%
- 9th grade: 21.4%
- 11th grade: 40.6%

•Excessive Alcohol Use (EAU*)

- 7th grade: 4.4%
- 9th grade: 14.3%
- 11th grade: 29.9%



* EAU: Based on reporting any of the following behaviors: Drank five drinks in a row 3 days in the past 30 days; or was very drunk or sick three or more times, lifetime; or likes to drink to get drunk or feel the effects a lot.

Level of Involvement: Related Problems



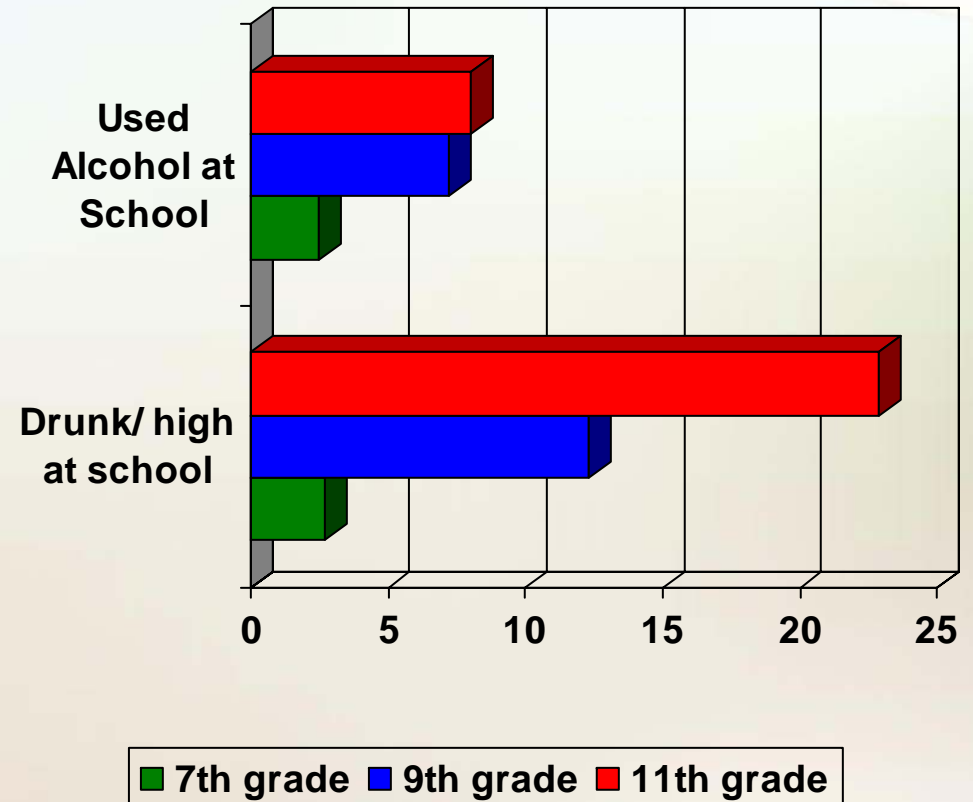
School Related Use

•Used alcohol at school (*Past 30 days*)

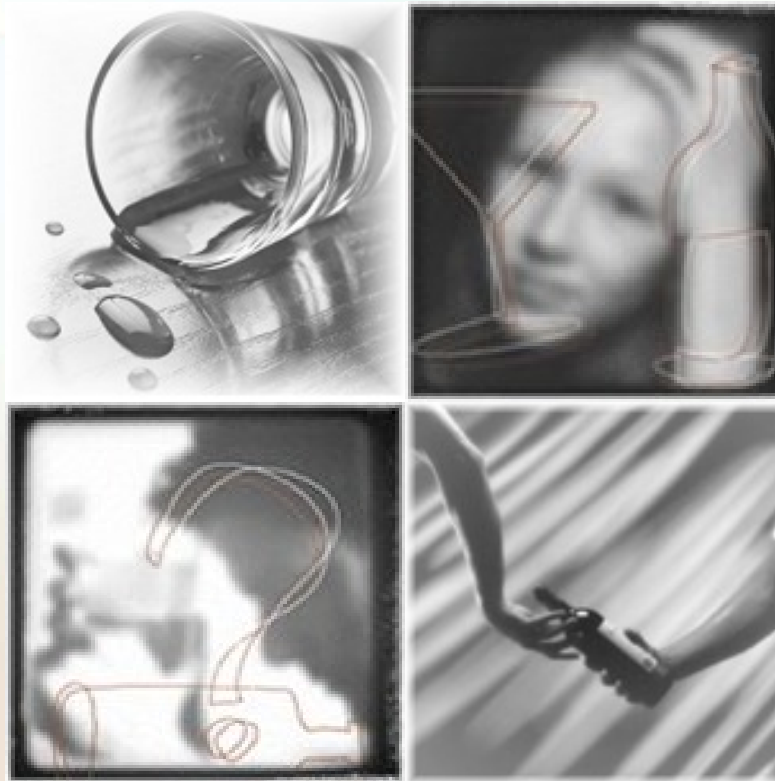
- 7th grade: 2.5%
- 9th grade: 7.2%
- 11th grade: 8.0%

•Drunk/high at school (*Lifetime*)

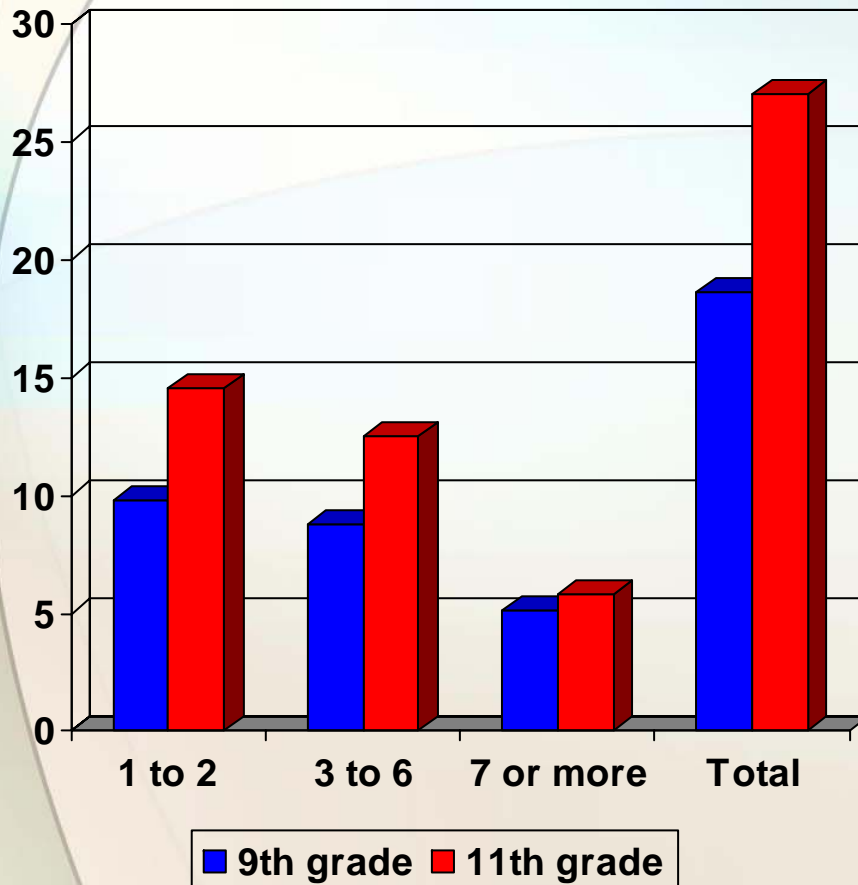
- 7th grade: 2.7%
- 9th grade: 12.3%
- 11th grade: 22.9%



Problems Associated with Underage Drinking



Problems Drinking and Driving During Lifetime: 9th/11th grades*



9th grade:

- Once or twice: 9.8%
- 3 to 6 times: 8.8%
- 7 or more times: 5.1%

Total: 18.6%

11th grade:

- 1 or 2 times: 14.5%
- 3 to 6 times: 12.5%
- 7 or more times: 5.8%

Total: 27.0%

* Responses to Q55: During your life, how many times have you ever driven a car when you had been drinking alcohol or been in a car driven by a friend when he or she had been drinking?



Excessive Drinking and Impact on School/Social Behaviors



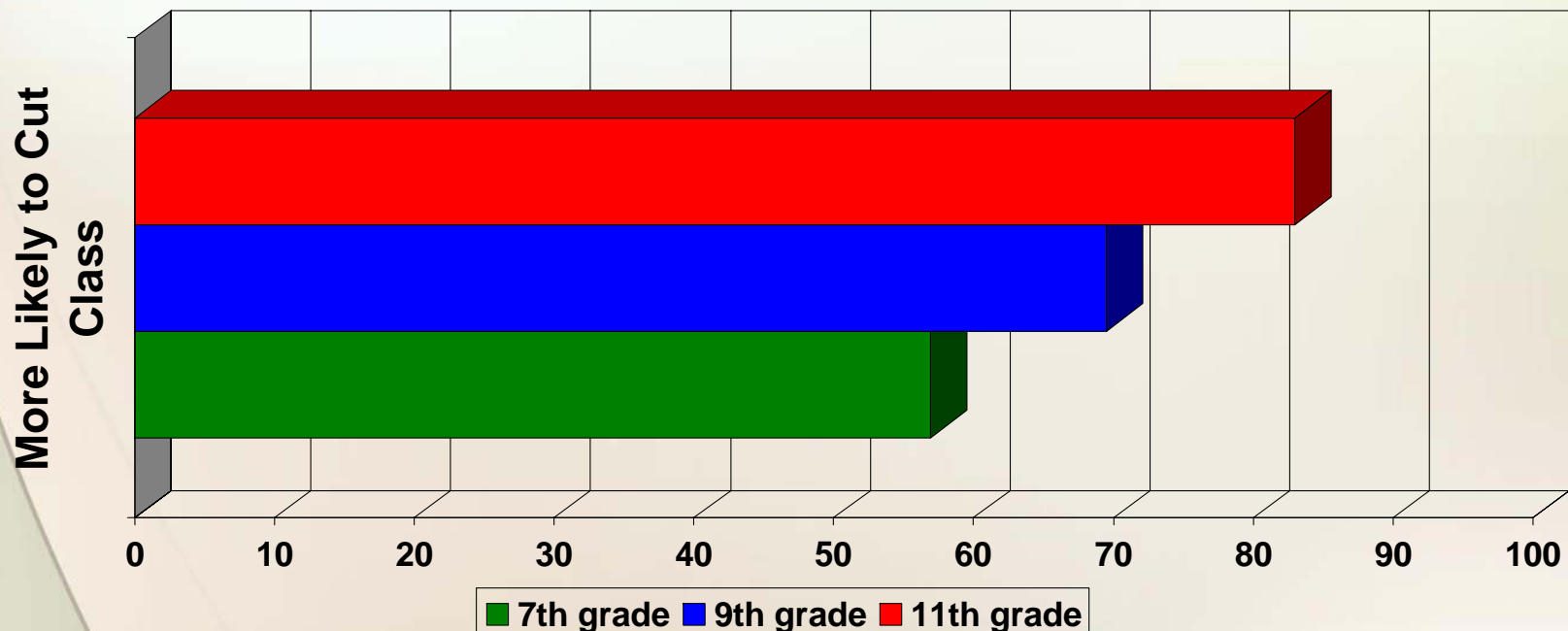
•Youths who binge drink are more likely to:

•*Skip School or Cut Class:*

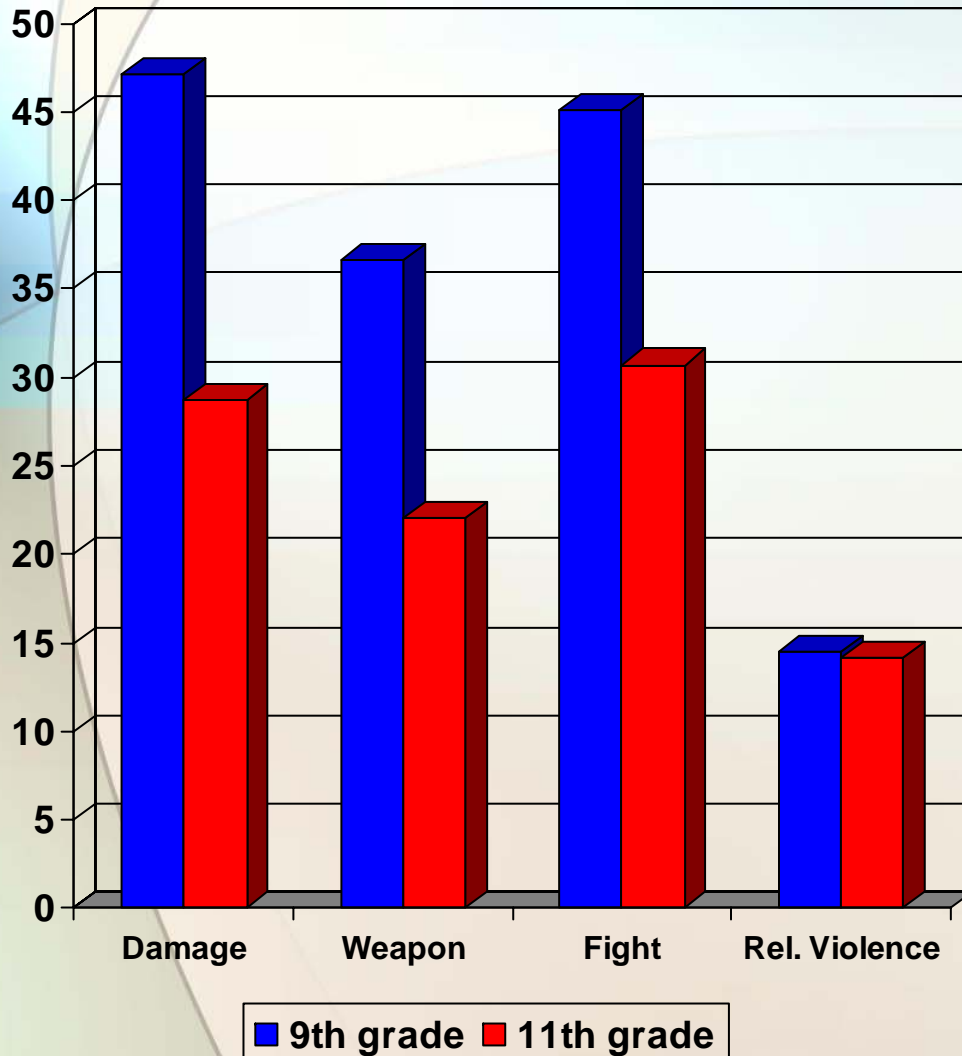
•Grade 7: 56.9%

•Grade 9: 69.5%

•Grade 11: 83.0%



Excessive Drinking and Impact on School/Social Behaviors



Youths who are Excessive Alcohol Users are more likely to:

- ***Damage School Property:***

- Grade 9: **47.1%**

- Grade 11: **28.7%**

- ***Take a Weapon to School:***

- Grade 9: **36.6%**

- Grade 11: **22.1%**

- ***Physical Fight at School:***

- Grade 9: **45.1%**

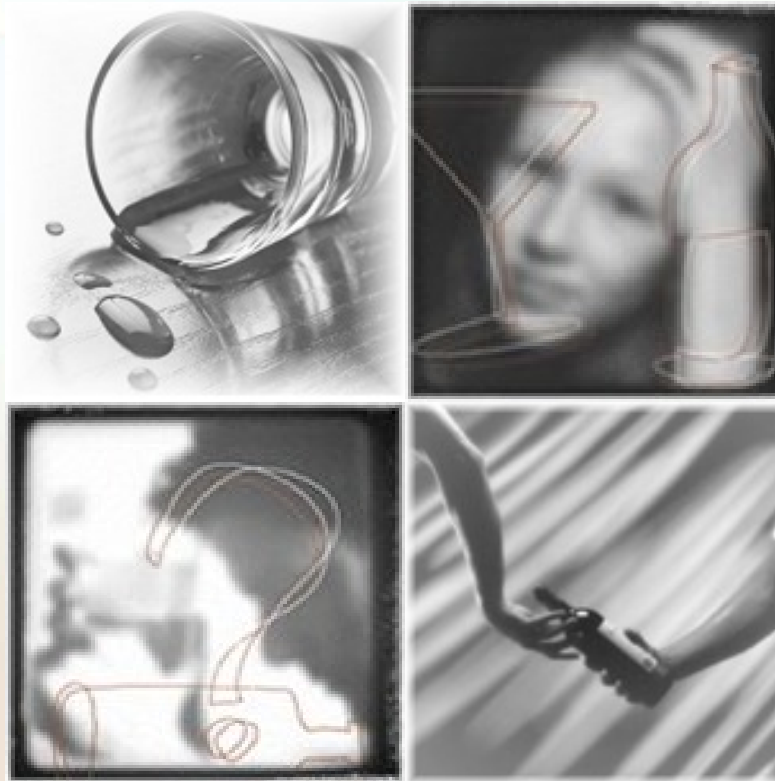
- Grade 11: **30.7%**

- ***Relationship Violence (out of school):***

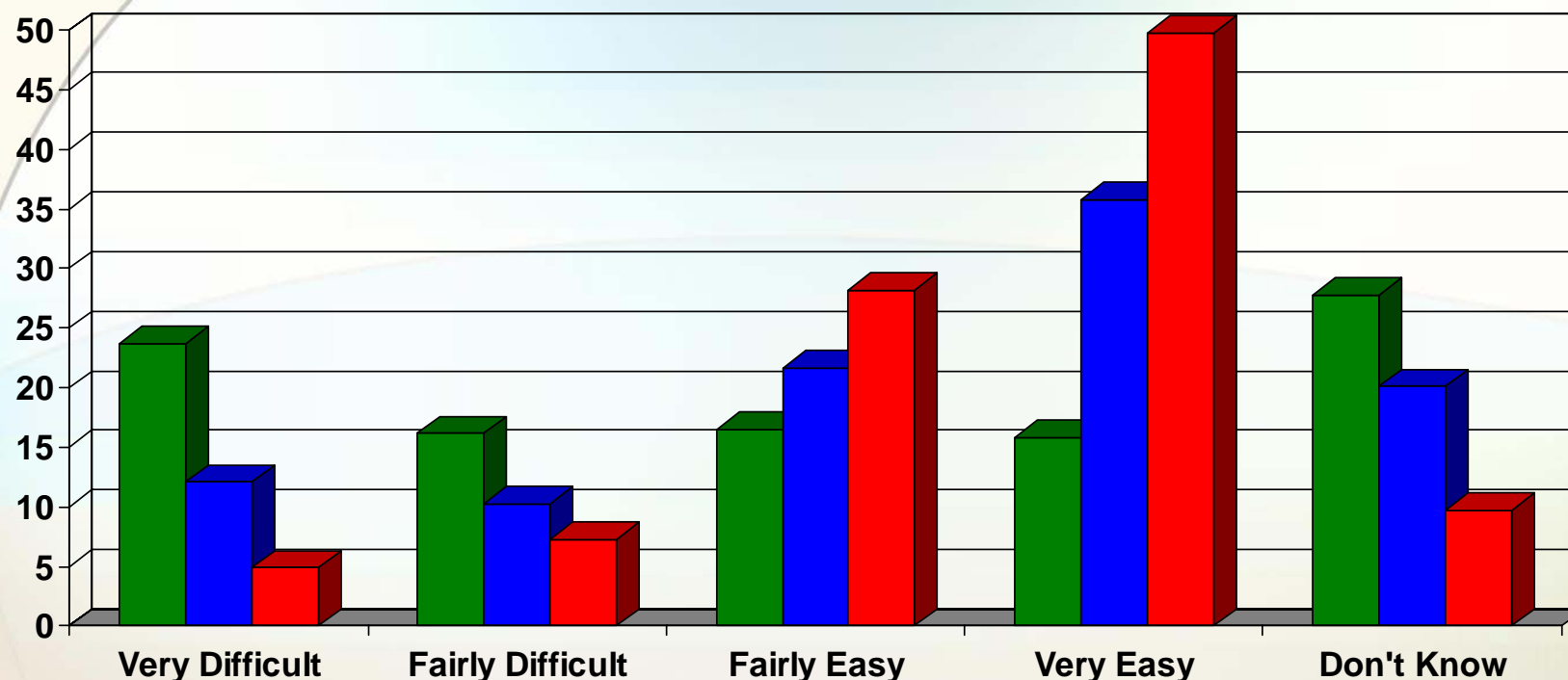
- Grade 9: **14.5%**

- Grade 11: **14.2%**

Availability and Access

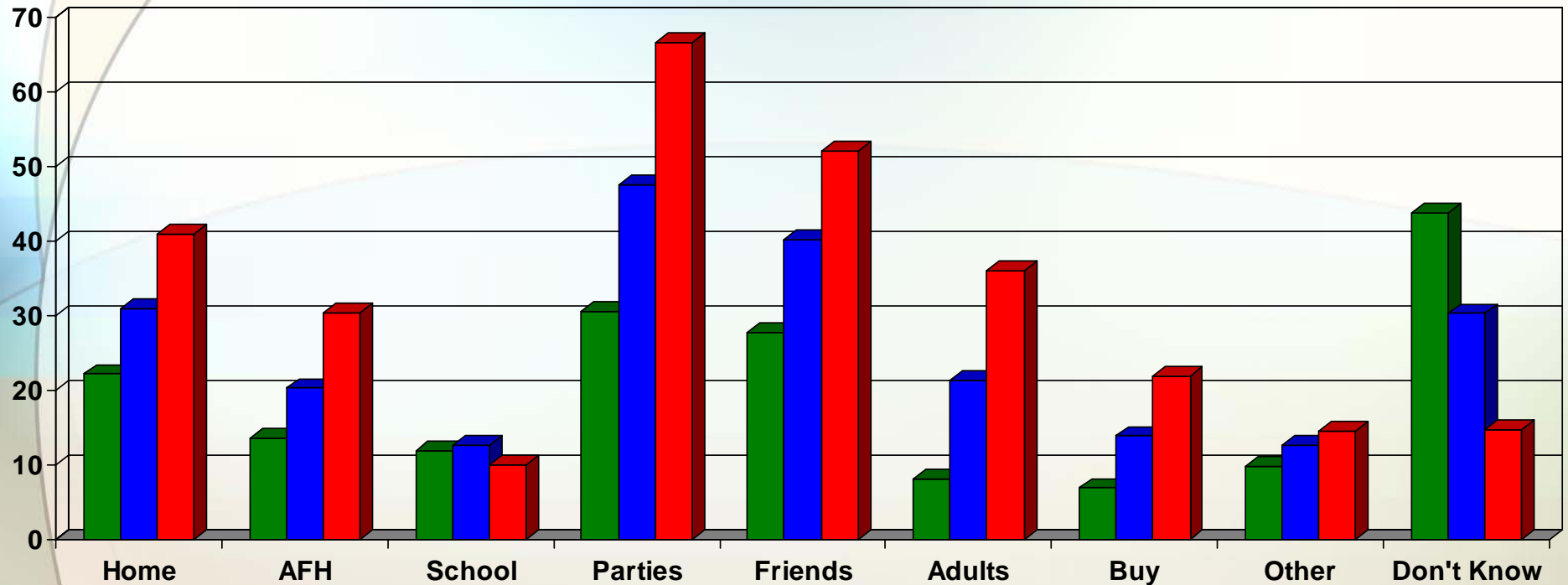


Perceived Difficulty Obtaining Alcohol



	7 th grade	9 th grade	11 th grade
<i>Very Difficult</i>	23.7%	12.1%	4.9%
<i>Fairly Difficult</i>	16.2%	10.3%	7.3%
<i>Fairly Easy</i>	16.5%	21.7%	28.2%
<i>Very Easy</i>	15.8%	35.8%	49.8%
<i>Don't Know</i>	27.8%	20.1%	9.7%

Perceptions of Where Most Student Alcohol Users Get Alcohol



	7 th grade	9 th grade	11 th grade		7 th grade	9 th grade	11 th grade
<i>Home</i>	22.2%	30.9%	40.9%	<i>Friends</i>	27.7%	40.2%	52.0%
<i>Adults at Friend's Home</i>	13.6%	20.3%	30.4%	<i>Get Adults to Buy</i>	8.2%	21.4%	36.0%
				<i>Buy Selves at Store</i>	6.9%	13.9%	21.9%
<i>School</i>	11.9%	12.6%	10.0%	<i>Other</i>	9.8%	12.6%	14.5%
<i>Parties/Social Events</i>	30.5%	47.5%	66.6%	<i>Don't Know</i>	43.7%	30.3%	14.7%

Summary

- Alcohol is the most frequently used substance by California youths.

- Although we have made progress in reducing the overall prevalence in youth drinking rates, we still have far too many of youths drinking and putting themselves and others at risk.



- Binge Drinking rates have stayed fairly constant (approximately 25% of our 11th graders binge monthly) over a twelve year period. This despite our best prevention efforts.

- Survey Findings clearly indicate that youths who drink excessively also have numerous social and school-related problems.